

Many Elderly Wage Earners Take Advantage Of Retirement Benefits

Many elderly wage earners have taken advantage of their retirement benefits under the Social Security Act since "V-J Day," advised J. G. Bretherton, Manager of the Long Beach Field Office of the Social Security Board.

"During each of the past two years we have seen our claims receipts double the number filed each of the preceding years," Bretherton continued.

"This is largely due to the fact that many of our elderly citizens were able, for the first time, to secure employment covered by the Social Security Act and establish an insured status while working in war industries. We now have a total of 8663 beneficiaries in our area entitled to receive a total of \$170,782.37 each month," Bretherton explained. "The claimants are made up in part by workers aged 65 and

over who have retired and are now receiving their monthly benefit checks, which will continue for the rest of their lives. The wives of these workers who have also attained 65 may also be entitled to receive an additional check equal to one half of their husband's benefit check.

"As of the first of this year there were, in the Long Beach Area, 3985 retired wage earners entitled to receive a monthly total of \$98,342.27 and 1283 wives entitled to \$18,008.85 each month. In addition there were 492 widows aged 65 or over, who have qualified for monthly checks equal to three-fourths of what their husbands would receive, which totaled \$9,909.94 each month. There are 2072 children of wage earners entitled to receive \$27,910.13, and to 851 widows under age 65, who are remaining home to care for the children, an additional \$18,209.23 is being sent each month. An additional number of parents aged 65 or over, who were wholly dependent upon deceased wage earners, have qualified, to receive monthly benefits.

"Since the first of 1940 the Long Beach Field Office has also handled an additional 3577 lump-sum death claims which have resulted in the payment of a total of \$488,033.49. Many of the widows who are claimants for death benefits will be eligible for monthly benefit checks upon attaining age 65.

"The greatly increased industrial development in the Long Beach Area has been reflected in the rapid growth in the work load of the Long Beach Office. "We appreciate that we are but one of 400 Field Offices of the Social Security Board throughout the United States established to serve the wage earners who are covered by the Social Security Act. Well over one and one-third million checks are now being mailed out monthly to beneficiaries of all types throughout the country, who are protected by the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Program," added Bretherton.

"The importance of the Social Security Account Number Card, which represents an Insurance Policy Number with the Federal Government is becoming more apparent every day. For this reason we ask that workers take care of their cards so that they can show it to their employers on each new job. The failure to furnish the correct account number to the employer may cause the wage earner

to lose his wage credits, which are the basis for paying insurance benefits." Bretherton also stated that wage earners who were receiving monthly benefits and who have returned to covered employment at higher wages, and have increased their average monthly wage, may have their benefits recomputed to include any additional amount they would be entitled to. Every wage earner who desires to learn more about his rights under the Old-Age and Survivors provisions of the Social Security Act, and particularly those who are considering retiring, is invited to get in touch with the nearest Field Office. The Long Beach Field Office, which serves Los Angeles County south of Rosecrans ave., and all of Orange County, is located at 423 Jennings Trust Building, 100 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach 2, California, telephone 697-41.

Basic Steps For Planning Bodies Are Suggested

Through the establishment of planning commissions, some of the local governments of the state are taking rapid strides toward making California communities better places in which to live.

This is shown in a report issued today by the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Commission. The report, entitled "California Planning," points out that, in addition to official planning commissions, much work is being done by unofficial planning groups.

The Commission's report contains statistical data showing the details of planning on the part of cities and counties. It is pointed out that, under the California public planning laws, cities may and counties must establish planning commissions.

The report contains a review of the objectives, history, planning laws and activity of city and county planning commissions. It also suggests basic steps for planning agencies as follows:

1. Consideration of the assets and liabilities.
2. Analysis of the causes of present conditions.
3. Determination of objectives to correct previous ills and take



Here are three leaders of Disease Prevention Week, Feb. 17-24. Left to right, Dr. George M. Uhl, Los Angeles city health officer; Dr. Ruth J. Temple, medical director, Community Health Association, and Dr. H. O. Swartout, county health officer, planning free health exhibit in Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park, Los Angeles.

Carver Re-elected President Of Goodwill Group

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries of Southern California, Charles E. Carver was elected to succeed himself as president for the twenty-eighth consecutive year. Dr. Frederic H. Blair begins his twenty-fifth year as executive director.

Reports submitted to the directors at this meeting show that during 1945 \$598,657 were paid in wages to employees in return for 793,412 working hours. A total of 687 different persons were employed during the year, and of this number only 8.1 per cent were non-handicapped. Of the remaining 91.9 per cent, handicaps include defective sight, hearing, speech, orthopedic disabilities, organic disabilities and handicaps by age or infirmity.

THE REAL GLORY

The glory of our soldiers, sailors, marines and aviators has astonished the world.—U. S. Senator O'Mahoney.

A copy of the report is available at the Torrance Herald office for information of those interested.

Income Tax Checks In Mail For Thousands

Checks for the first income tax refunds for 1945 are being signed today, beating last year's refund checks by about six months, it was announced by Internal Revenue Collector Harry C. Westover.

Westover revealed that in the first refund group are 9900 checks totaling \$419,898. These checks are all for persons who used withholding receipts for tax returns.

Refunds for those using the regular income tax forms, 1040, must be processed in the New York office of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, while refunds for withholding receipt tax forms can be computed here.

Westover declared that refunds, totaling 50 million dollars will eventually be sent to one million persons in the Southern California area for the 1945 tax year.

CONTROL FLOODS

It was in the flood control bill of 1928 that Congress first admitted it to be the duty of the United States to control floods on the tributaries of the Mississippi river. As a result much work on tributaries has been done, and a great and intelligent program for this meritorious public work is now in the making.

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